SEATO RECORD

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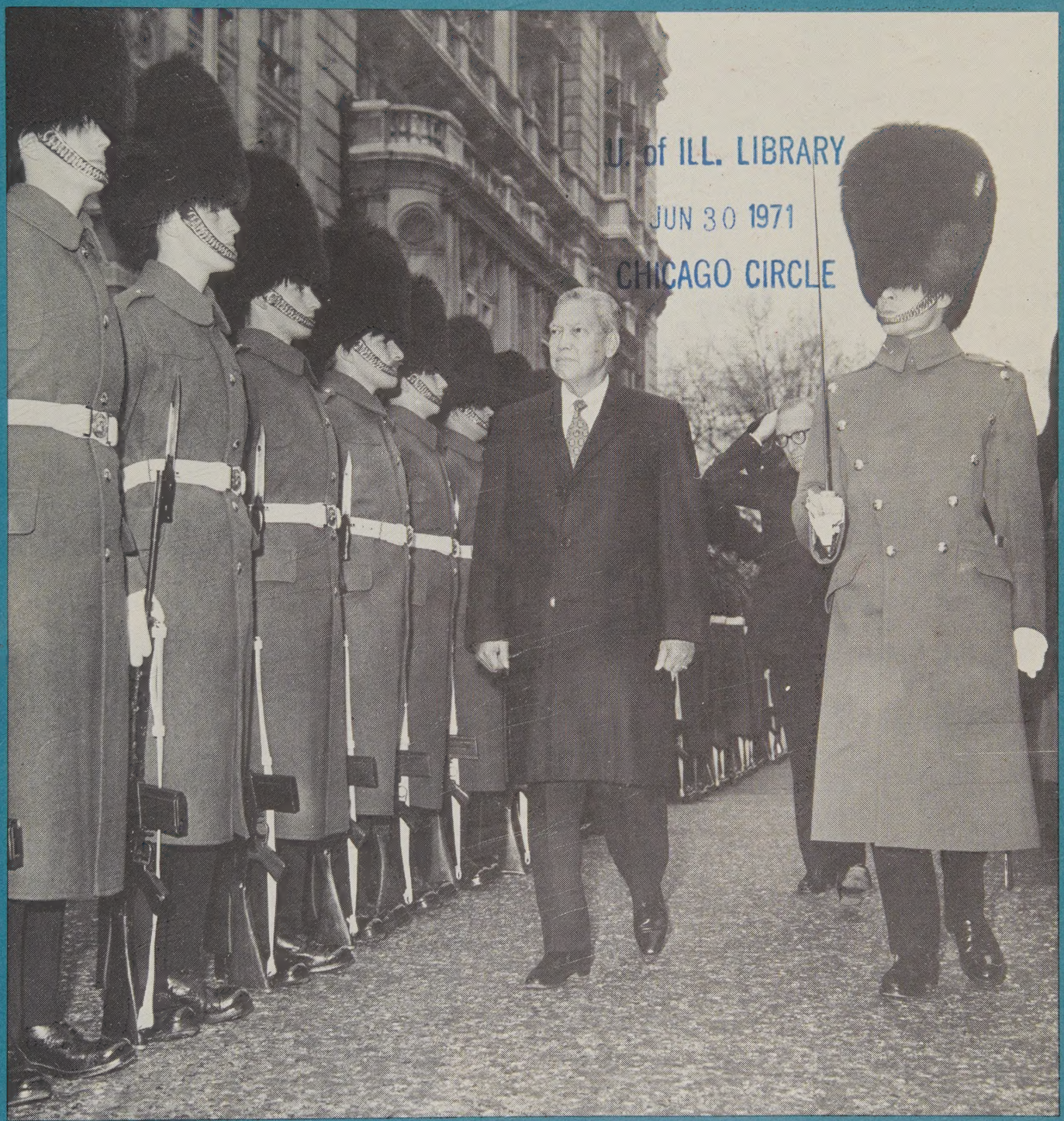

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● SECRETARY-GENERAL'S 5-NATION MISSION

SEATO RECORD

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SEATO RECORD features significant events in South-East Asia, as well as activities of the Organization and its member nations. It reports statements which reflect attitudes or policies related to SEATO's role as a defensive organization.

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COVER:

SEATO Secretary-General Jesus Vargas, inspecting a Guard of Honour of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards outside the Ministry of Defence in London when he called on Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Defence, during his recent visit to Britain.

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● *President Nixon and Gen. Vargas share a joke during their White House talks.*

5-nation mission by General Vargas

SEATO Secretary-General Jesus Vargas returned to SEATO Headquarters in Bangkok on December 2 after a three-week mission which involved visiting five nations—four of them in the SEATO Alliance—and having meetings and discussions with world leaders and statesmen, including the President of the United States and the British Prime Minister.

His itinerary included Belgium and the SEATO member nations, France, Britain, the United States and the Philippines.

Starting his mission in France, General Vargas had discussions with Ambassador Herve Alphand, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other officials. At the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, he met Mr. G. Sforza, Deputy Secretary-General, in the absence on an official mission of the Secretary-General, for briefings and discussions.

In Belgium, General Vargas called on the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO), Mr. Manlio Brosio, and visited the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE).

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5-NATION MISSION BY GEN. VARGAS

During his stay in Britain, the SEATO Secretary-General met the British Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath, at No. 10 Downing Street, called on the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, and Secretary of State for Defence, Lord Carrington, and had discussions with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth office, Mr. Anthony Royle.

At the Ministry of Defence, General Vargas received military honours, during which he inspected a guard of honour of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards.

While he was in London, General Vargas also had discussions with government officials about arrangements for the SEATO Council Meeting to be held there in April, 1971.

In the United States, he had talks with President Nixon, Secretary of State William P. Rogers, and other top government officials and military officers.

General Vargas also visited the Pentagon and lectured at the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University.

From Washington, he went to the John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he received briefings on the organization and activities of the Center.

He also visited the Military Academy at West Point; called on the United Nations Secretary-General, U Thant, in New York, and had discussions with Admiral John S. McCain, Commander-in-Chief Pacific, in Honolulu.

In the Philippines, the SEATO Secretary-General called on President Ferdinand E. Marcos at Malacanang Palace and had talks with the Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Manuel Collantes, and other high-ranking government and military officials.

On his return to Bangkok, General Vargas told the Press that his mission had been a success in every respect.

'Nixon Doctrine assures continued aid'

THE Nixon doctrine made clear that the United States would continue to provide assistance to friendly Asian nations to meet security and development needs, SEATO Secretary General Vargas said in Washington.

The doctrine set forth by President Nixon at Guam in July 1969, in fact, would have the effect of stimulating the countries of the SEATO region to develop ways to meet their problems, General Vargas told a news conference.

The U.S., he pointed out, was not withdrawing but only diminishing troop presence in the area.

General Vargas said he did not foresee that there would be changes in the posture, value or importance of SEATO as long as the threat of Communist aggression mounted.

He said: "The free nations of South-East Asia are truly grateful for the sacrifices the American nation has made in the interests of peace and security in the region.

"We are aware of the price that Americans have paid in defending the basic liberties of the people of the Republic of Vietnam. No nation has made greater sacrifices in a more selfless cause than has the United States in defending the right of 19 million people to determine their own future.

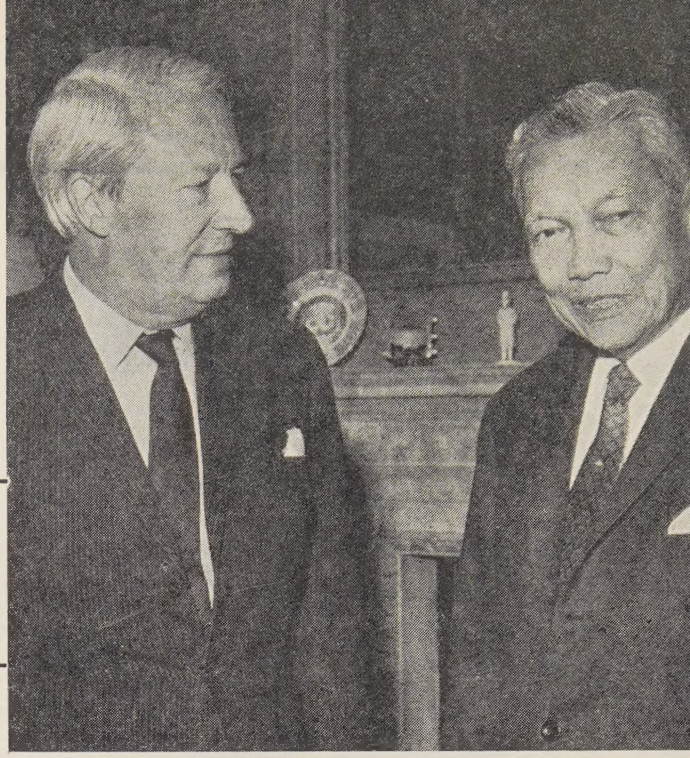
"We are aware of U.S. efforts to bring about a real and durable peace to that troubled country—the many initiatives you have made to try to obtain a just peace, not the least being President Nixon's recent five-point formula for a settlement.

"We are also aware of Communist efforts to sow discord between the American people and the free peoples of South-East Asia. But we will not be deceived.

"We know what Communism means—in Europe the Hungarian Revolution, the Berlin Wall, the invasion of Czechoslovakia, the persecution of intellectuals and religious believers; in Asia, the invasion of South Korea, the liquidation of countless thousands of peasants in North Vietnam, the invasion of Tibet, the Hue Massacre, and now terrorism and subversion throughout a large part of the area.

"We remember all this and that is why we are grateful to the American nation for helping free Asians maintain our own sovereignty and security," said General Vargas.

A call on the British Prime Minister



● *SEATO's Secretary-General Jesus Vargas pictured with the British Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath, when they met at 10 Downing Street.*

A look at Special Forces Team...

● *A Special Forces team at the John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, demonstrates its capability to General Vargas and his party.*

A meeting with U Thant

● *The Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, greets General Vargas during his call at the UN Secretariat in New York.*

South-East Asia:

ARENA FOR WORLD PEACE

SHORTLY after the completion of his five-nation mission, SEATO Secretary-General Jesus Vargas was the guest lecturer at the American University Alumni Association Language Center in Bangkok. The full text of his address—"South-East Asia: Arena for World Peace"—follows:

"I have just completed a most stimulating and inspiring voyage around the world, which included official visits to four other member countries of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization.

This is my first opportunity since my recent visits to France, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Philippines, to appear before an audience and attempt to put into global perspective the various efforts being made by men of goodwill to attain peace in the world in general, and in South-East Asia in particular.

I can think of no more appropriate venue for the purpose than the American University Alumni Language Center, which to me symbolizes in the finest way the long-standing cordial relationships between Thailand and the United States.

In electing to speak today on the subject "South-East Asia: Arena for World Peace", I did so firm in the conviction that, since no other area has more fully pre-occupied the strongest and the biggest powers of the world in respect of the strife and the turmoil which have continually attended the lives of Asians, the crucial world power decisions aimed at the attainment of peace must be made in the South-East Asian arena.

First, let us look into the policies and the activities in the region of the Communist powers.

Recent developments in South-East Asia do not seem to encourage any hope that Communist China's attitude towards its South-East Asian neighbours will change to any appreciable degree in the foreseeable future. On the contrary, there are clear indications that Red China will persist with its intransigent foreign policy, and pursue with even greater vigour its support of insurgency and subversion within the borders of the free countries of the region.

Communist China and its expansionist policies are the main source of assistance and encouragement to North Vietnam and the Viet Cong in their aggression in the Indochinese peninsula. Red China is, in fact, the principal motivating force of Communist subversion and insurgency throughout all of South-East Asia.

Peking's consistent encouragement of dissidence, its propaganda exploitation of local grievances and its support of "revolutionary wars" have continued at an undiminished tempo. Pursuing policies which have tended towards militant action and confrontation, Communist China has eagerly seized upon recent events in Indochina to extend the area in which these tactics may be employed.

Considering that no country in South-East Asia today is without a Communist Party of some kind, and considering further that no endemic Communist Party, either fully-rooted or still incipient, is known ever to have veered from the all-too-familiar Communist objective of undermining free governments for eventual seizure of national power, the problem of Red Chinese support for subversion and insurgency by local Communist Parties is a major one indeed.

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The Soviet Union, for its part, has consistently sought to ensure that it is the Soviet interpretation of Communist ideology that is accepted in the region. This is more than a question of ideological semantics; it involves big power politics, the question of which of the two major Communist protagonists will eventually emerge as the dominant force of the movement.

To the Russians, their action in this troubled part of the world must militate against Peking's expansionism. They cannot, therefore, afford to give their unqualified support to the Communist revolutionary cause in the area if that support operated to bring the regional countries into a sphere of dominant Chinese influence.

Unlike Communist China, the Soviet Union appears to be developing a cautious dialogue with the West in respect of selected major issues. The Russians appear at present to be anxious to avoid a serious confrontation with the West over South-East Asian questions.

Although one cannot at this stage say whether the Soviet Union's objective in this is generally to foster world peace or merely to gain time so that it may eventually confront the West from a position of greater relative strength, it would seem to me that, in its own assessment, the global interests of the USSR would be better served by achieving a relatively stable situation in South-East Asia.

Thus, the reaction of the Soviet Union towards South-East Asian issues has been characterized by circumspection and compromise, while denouncing vehemently Communist Chinese belligerent policies and at the same time continuing to give military and economic aid to North Vietnam in support of the latter's aggression.

SOVIET OBSESSION

While opposing any proposal for peace emanating from the Free World—such as the repeated calls for the reactivation of the International Control Commission in Cambodia and for a new Geneva-type Conference to discuss the problems of the Indochinese States—the Soviet Union is nevertheless unprepared to give full support to actions sponsored by Communist China. Its one obsession has been to check the spread of Communist China's political and ideological influence throughout the area.

● *General Vargas and his Special Assistant, Lt. Col. J. L. Reyna. Jr. (right), visited the Instructional Support Division of the U.S. Military Academy's Academic Department while they were in the U.S. recently. Here they watch the operation of the Military Academy's closed circuit television network.*

South-East Asia saw during the past few years major changes in the defence policies of Free World big powers. For various reasons, most of them have elected to reduce their presence and curtail much of their involvement in Asia. After Dien Bien Phu, France withdrew all its armed forces from the area except some token naval forces in the Central Pacific and the Indian Ocean.

More recently, it has ceased to participate in military activities in this region either in the SEATO context or outside of it. Recently, both the United States and Great Britain took definitive steps towards scaling down their military presence in Asia and the South-West Pacific basin.

The now famous Nixon doctrine, which constitutes the principal basis of American foreign policy here, calls for a more responsible and fuller role for Asian nations, not only in their own defence but also in their development. Under this doctrine, the United States is committed:

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(a) to keep all its treaty commitments;

(b) to provide a shield if a nuclear power threatens the freedom of a nation allied to it, or of a nation whose security it considers vital to its own and the security of the region as a whole; and

(c) in cases involving other types of aggression, to furnish military and economic assistance when requested and as appropriate, provided however that the nation directly threatened assumes the primary responsibility of providing the manpower for its defence.

Understandably, the doctrine, although obviously a sound one—and one that has gained general acceptance among the leaders of Asian countries—at first gave rise to some discomfiture on the part of free Asians. Their reservations were not entirely unfounded.

The doctrine follows from a wide range of assumptions, some of them not entirely borne out by present-day events. For instance it assumes that Japan, today one of the greatest industrial countries of the world but hardly a world power as such, will expand and improve its aid programmes to help meet the economic and security needs of the developing countries of Asia and thus assume a major fraction of the role being played by the United States. As far as I know, Japan has made no categorical commitment in this regard.

It might also be inferred that the doctrine presupposes that India and Pakistan, which taken together comprise the most populous portion of Asia with the possible exception of Red China, would participate in a substantial programme of co-operation affecting the area as a whole.

These attitudes towards and capacity for mutual and regional collaboration in developmental matters are, to my mind, as essential to the success of the Nixon doctrine as an increased role of Japan in the region. But we all know that, at least for the present and perhaps for the foreseeable future, those two countries are likely to continue suffering from the strain of their old bitter dispute over Kashmir.

Also, the doctrine anticipates with great hope that, with a diminution in the involvement of the United States in Asia, the Soviet Union and Communist China would respond in similar fashion and opt to reduce their own involvement in the affairs of the developing countries of Asia. As I have pointed out earlier in this lecture, there seems to be no indication that such a reduction of Communist big-power involvement is in the offing.

Lest I am misunderstood, I must say that I consider the Nixon doctrine to be as sound and equitable as one could reasonably expect as the basis of American policy in the area. For one thing, it has spurred the heretofore rather complacent free Asian nations into action—a development which may prove to be a blessing in disguise for the developing countries concerned.

It has awakened America's Asian friends and allies into the realization that they should not, henceforward, lean too heavily on the support and the assistance of the big powers but rather that they should depend principally on their own resources and capacities, for self-defence and development.

And justifiably, the doctrine takes account of the speedy trend among free Asian countries towards increased regional co-operation, as evidenced by the birth of new political aggregations of nations in the area during the past decade.

KEY TO SUCCESS

What is perhaps the key to the success of the Nixon doctrine is American military material and economic aid to the developing countries. This may be deduced from the very terms of the doctrine which, as I mentioned earlier, envisages that in cases of types of aggression other than one involving a nuclear threat, the United States would provide military and economic assistance when requested and as appropriate, provided however that the nation directly threatened assumed the primary responsibility of providing the manpower for its defence.

Under the doctrine, the free countries of Asia can only quite reasonably expect that the current withdrawals of American troops from South-East Asia would be accompanied by a commensurate increase in both the volume and the quality of American military and economic aid to the countries concerned. This is necessary if those Asian countries are to fill the inevitable gaps resulting from such American withdrawals.

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● *General Vargas speaking to a student group at the Center for Advanced Studies in International Relations, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, during his recent five-nation mission.*

Only foreign aid will enable the developing Asian countries, to fill these gaps, for all of them, without exception, find themselves confronted by difficulties arising from the fact that national resources funnelled towards security are a debit upon the resources otherwise available for development.

The question of American aid has thus become inextricably associated with the maintenance and the wider implications of the balance of military power in this part of the world.

Following the enunciation of the doctrine last year, not too long after the then British Government decided to withdraw from the area all its military forces east of Suez except its small garrison in Hong Kong, the developing countries of Asia took immediate but necessarily modest measures to cushion the impact of the big-power withdrawals.

They set for themselves national and regional political and military goals calculated to mitigate the impact of the big-power decisions and fill the resultant void in their security systems. It can be assumed that these adjustments were made with the announced determination of the United States to continue assisting them, short of supplying the required manpower, in mind.

I dare say, in the circumstances, that any serious shortfall in foreign aid at this time *vis-a-vis* the developing countries of Asia may well mean the undoing of the Nixon doctrine.

Fortunately for free Asians, however, the recent big-power withdrawals have not been such as to constitute an abandonment of their cause by their powerful friends and allies. Both the United States and the United Kingdom have given adequate assurance and concrete evidence that they will abide by their commitments under the Manila Pact and other treaties.

President Nixon's action in sending American troops into Cambodia earlier this year, for instance, is evidence, to my mind, that the American nation would not hesitate to respond, and respond adequately and promptly, to a clear military imperative arising from a given contingency.

The results of the American and allied military operations in Cambodia earlier this year were most encouraging. The allies destroyed numerous bases and large quantities of war materials so vital to Communist military operations in the area.

Besides compelling the Communists to over-extend their lines of communications, the action has served vigorous notice to the Communists that America will not countenance any Communist exploitation of the continuing American military withdrawals in South Vietnam and other allied efforts calculated to reduce tension in this part of the world.

It has restored in no small measure free Asian confidence in the leadership and the sincerity of the

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United States, and in its determination to help checkmate the Communists in South-East Asia.

I personally feel, rather strongly, that if the United States had withheld direct military intervention in Cambodia very much longer, it may well have meant the irrevocable forfeiture of all prospects of allied victory and of peace in the entire peninsula.

Significantly, in my discussions with ranking American officials in my recent trip, it was my clear impression that there was a general awareness among them that if Cambodia fell into the hands of the enemy, the overall allied position in this area would be weakened considerably and the freedom and security of Thailand and other free countries in South-East Asia gravely endangered.

Vietnam is another case in point. The American Government, in an effort not so much to placate agitation on the home front as to reduce tension in South-East Asia, has embarked not simply on a programme of troop withdrawals from Vietnam but, more importantly, on a Vietnamization scheme which would permit a fully-revitalized South Vietnamese Armed Forces to take over from the Americans an increasing burden of the war effort.

The American concern that their withdrawals do not jeopardize overall Free World interests in Vietnam is understandable.

The significance of Vietnam has gone beyond that of the narrow confines of a brushfire ideological war. Vietnam represents not just the quest of a few million freedom-loving people for an opportunity to live and govern themselves in a manner of their own choosing; it represents as well the desire of the developing nations of South-East Asia to ensure that they shall not be molested and unduly placed at the mercy of the ever-scheming Communist aggressors.

It represents the bid by free peoples far removed from the locale of the conflict to defeat and stop aggression away from their shores and thereby ensure that their own freedom shall not be compromised.

At no place and in no other battleground, and at no time in history, has it been more eloquently demonstrated that a threat to freedom anywhere in the world is a threat to freedom everywhere around the globe.

Let us now look into British policy.

In its statement on British Defence Policy issued in October, 1970, the British Government spoke of its determination to maintain a reasonable presence in Asia—a stance diametrically opposed to the position of the previous administration.

While emphasizing that the maintenance and improvement of British military contribution to NATO remains the first priority, the government reaffirmed Great Britain's willingness to play her part in countering the serious threats to stability outside the NATO area.

Specifically, it declared that Britain proposes to help counter those threats by continuing:

(a) to honour her obligations for the protection of British territories overseas and those to whom she owes a special duty by treaty or otherwise;

(b) to support the efforts of the United Nations and other international authorities working to eliminate the sources of conflict between nations and to promote disarmament; and

(c) to support CENTO and SEATO.

The British Government intends, in addition, to contribute to five-power Commonwealth defence arrangements relating to Malaysia and Singapore. Towards this end, it has proposed to the four Commonwealth Governments of Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore that five-power defence arrangements, which would be based on a political commitment of a consultative nature undertaken equally by all five powers, should be established as soon as possible.

The British Government is thus now committed to retain a fairly sizeable military presence in the region. Although this presence is unlikely eventually to equal the original British presence in the area before the pull-out decision was taken in 1967, it represents something capable of being built upon in the event of an emergency requiring the employment of bigger forces.

The political situation in Asia today has not diminished, but has rather emphasized, the essentiality of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization. As the only multi-lateral alliance, apart possibly from the ANZUS Treaty, committed to the defence of the region against Communist aggression in any form, it is called upon to provide, as it has provided in the

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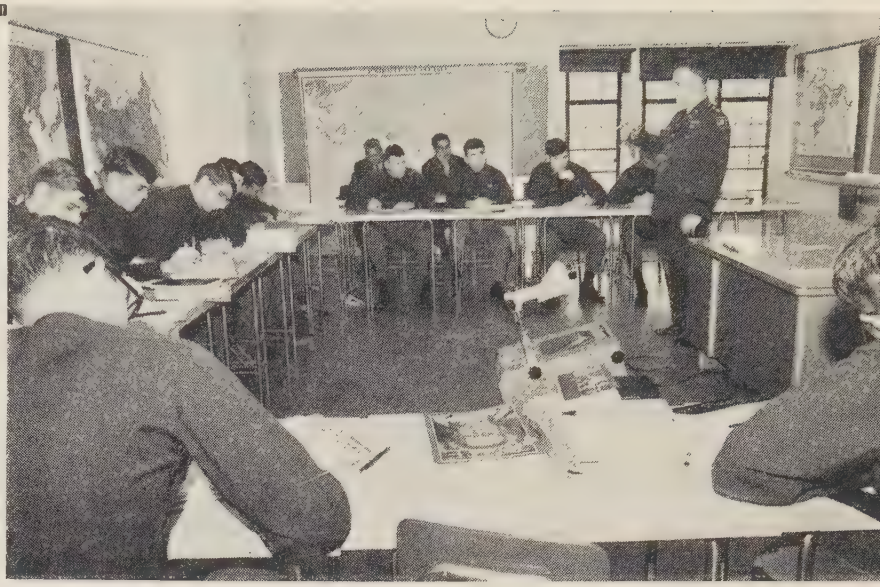

● *During his visit to the U.S. Military Academy (West Point), General Vargas watched this cultural anthropology class at work.*

past decade-and-a-half, the necessary collective deterrent power against overt attack.

The Manila Pact, under which SEATO was established in 1954, has since also provided the legal basis for the involvement of the Free World big-powers in the security affairs of South-East Asia.

The Free World looks up to SEATO and its member countries to continue to strengthen their joint and individual efforts to counter subversion, to fight insurgency, and to carry out the myriad of social, economic, cultural and political activities which characterize free societies and ensure their ultimate survival against any totalitarian threats.

One of the world's most sensitive and troubled areas today, South-East Asia holds at the same time the key to mankind's hopes for a truly enduring world peace.

No region has undergone changes so rapid, so profound and so complex; and no area has seen so widespread poverty which spawns so much discontent and breeds so much instability. No area has seen so much strife and turmoil. But at the same time no region has more fully pre-occupied those in a position to help bring about peace and, once attained, to maintain it to the enduring benefit of all mankind.

The continuing Paris Talks, now in their third year, although without any substantial progress, has established and ensured the maintenance of the dialogue between the opposing parties so vital to any effort aimed at a negotiated settlement of the war. I maintain that in this one respect, the talks have been worthwhile, even considering that the Communists have made it clear that they are prepared only to discuss the question of withdrawal of foreign military forces from South Vietnam.

That the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong continue to participate in the talks despite the avowed Communist Chinese stance against a negotiated peace and despite their importunings upon the Pathet Lao and the Viet Cong to persist in protracted war until "final victory" is won, holds some hope in the hearts and minds of freedom-loving men the world over.

There is no gainsaying the fact that the heretofore unilateral Free World big-power de-escalation-consisting of the withdrawal of sizeable military forces from Vietnam and elsewhere in the region—has reduced tension in South-East Asia. What is most disconcerting, however, is that this de-escalation has not been matched by a similar scaling down by the Communists.

The Djakarta Conference held earlier this year —which represented the first organized all-Asian initiative for a negotiated peace in the former Indochinese States—has had its own salutary effects.

It has dramatized to all the world, regardless of ideological alignment or political persuasion, that the one-consuming wish of the free Asian peoples is for peace to be restored and for them to be able to live peacefully thereafter with the rest of the world.

I personally feel that similar All-Asian conferences should be held, preferably with the participation of other Asian countries less associated with either side of the ideological conflict, such as India, Pakistan and Burma. This would broaden the base, and hopefully the effectiveness, of such all-Asian initiatives.

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There are numerous other endeavours calculated to assist in bringing about a negotiated settlement of the war. These include those being handled under the auspices separately of the United Nations and the Vatican which, like the others which I have cited earlier, are mostly oriented along a general feeling that some kind of international conference to end the war, of the type of the Geneva Conference of 1962, is necessary.

Following the first important contact last July 31 between the Royal Laotian Government and the Lao Patriotic Front (LPF) since 1964, a great deal had been going on in a formal sense in the matter of discussions between the two sides but there had been no real progress towards anything concrete.

The report the other day that Laotian Premier Prince Souvanna Phouma had proposed a nine-mile wide neutral corridor to protect access to the area chosen for the protected talks is, in my view, an important development in the dispute over the conditions for the proposed negotiations.

The free peoples of Asia are aware that bargains with the Communists are difficult to strike. However, as freedom-loving men, they cannot but encourage initiatives from any quarters for a peaceful settlement to the war that has kept millions of fellow Asians living in fear and bondage for decades. As civilized men, they cannot but welcome all efforts aimed at reducing tension for the purpose eventually of ending the war.

They recognize in the existing Geneva machinery, for all its shortcomings, a structure which continues to hold some hope of a restoration of peace to their part of the world, and they welcome any initiative leading to its reconvening.

The crux of the problem for free Asians is simple: for any independent country to continue existing as such, it must progress and develop; and for any developmental endeavour to prosper, it must be pursued under conditions of peace and security.

I should like to conclude my lecture by enumerating some salient points that have become manifest in the course of the unending quest for peace in South-East Asia:

First, the current efforts of Free World big-powers to de-escalate the war in order to reduce tension should not operate seriously to tip the crucial balance of power at present obtaining in Asia, in favour of the enemy. Otherwise, free Asians would forever be at the mercy of the Communists;

Second, it must be borne in mind that a *detente* between the opposing forces in the ideological conflict is not by itself an infallible assurance of peace. It must be accompanied by suitable and reliable guarantees for keeping the peace once attained;

Third, as a general rule, in order for one to attain results in the political field—such as in negotiations for peace—one must be able to negotiate always from a strong military position. The rule in the conduct of international affairs is that one can whisper or talk firmly and be listened to, and plead or assert vigorously, depending on whether one's position is weak or strong;

Fourth, the Free World big powers must be willing to help their Asian partners develop their strength, to enable the latter to contribute more effectively to countering not only the threats to themselves and the region, but also to those which affect the security and other interests of the Free World as a whole.

The more affluent allies must do enough to assist their Asian partners in order that the latter may not lose the necessary will to conduct their own self-defence or become disenchanted about the prospects for development and progress;

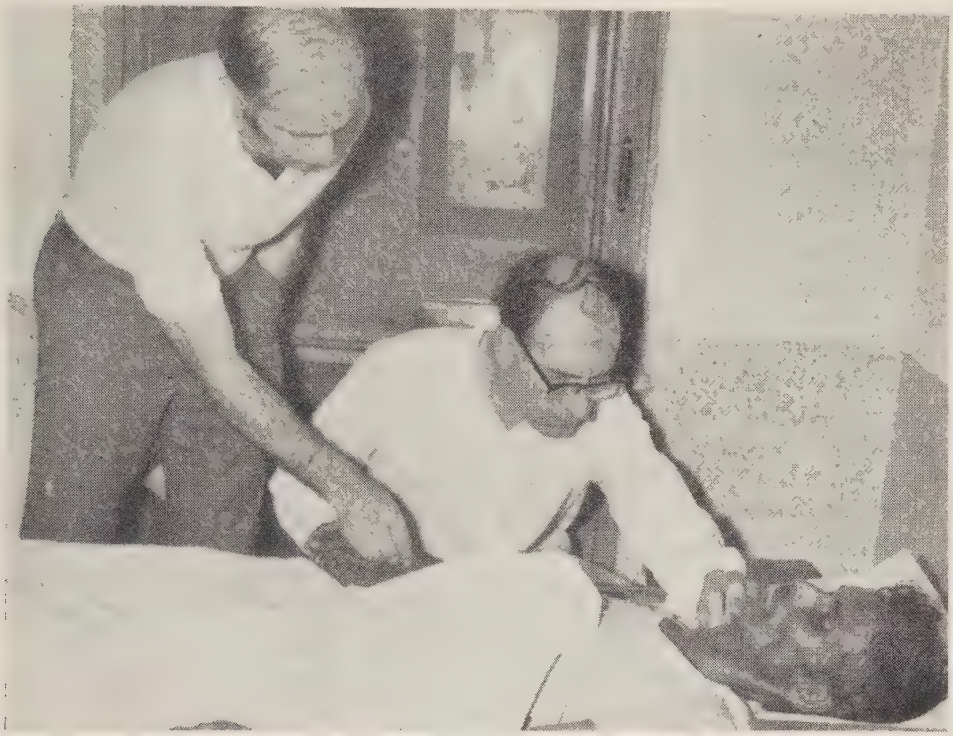
Fifth, the Communists should respond squarely to the obvious challenge to match Free World efforts to cool down the war in South-East Asia if the chances of a negotiated peace are to be improved;

Sixth, the Communists should accept the all-too-evident thesis that a peaceful settlement of the war must include not only the withdrawal of all foreign troops from South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, but also the cessation of Communist subversion and organized terrorist campaigns in Indochina, Thailand, the Philippines and other developing countries of South-East Asia; and

Finally, free Asians and the world at large must recognize and accept that, considering its troubled past and the complexity of the present turmoil, there are no easy answers to the manifold problems of Asia—the one part of the world that is, paradoxically enough, co-equally a perennial battleground and an arena for world peace.

A Decade of Cholera Research

by **Surgeon Commander G.A.R. Giri, O.B.E., R.N., Staff Medical Officer, SEATO Military Planning Office**



● *Commander Giri attended the recent annual conferences of the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory committees in Dacca. His article describes the activities of the Laboratory as well as highlighting some very important questions regarding the treatment and prevention of the disease. He is shown examining a patient in the Laboratory's field station at Matlab Bazar. The patient had just been brought in critically ill and received immediate treatment. The recovery rate here is nearly 100 per cent.*

THE Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory was established in 1960 on SEATO initiative and its location in East Pakistan was agreed upon as the disease was here endemic and therefore most suitable for long-term studies.

The decade of research under the direction of Dr. Robert A. Phillips, USA, has been exceedingly fruitful and the laboratory has established itself in the forefront of institutions engaged in the study of cholera. D. Phillips is now handing over to Dr. Kendrick Hare, USA, but must be thanked not only for a period of direction in which he has justly been called "King Cholera", but also for the fact that so much of real significance about the disease has emerged as a result of his and his staff's activities.

The laboratory buildings in Dacca have a small ward where cholera patients are admitted. During the last meeting the foundation stone of an extension to the ward was laid as the Laboratory has now become one of the main treatment centres in Dacca, whether this role was originally envisaged or not. Field research into the natural history of the disease is conducted at Matlab Bazaar which is about 40 miles South-East of Dacca and here for the past ten years a research team with a small ward and a laboratory have been conducting a study of an undisturbed primitive area whose total population is about 250,000.

An area where motor boats supplied by SEATO member nations are the only method of communication with villages that are completely isolated except by water, and where electricity and medical facilities are almost completely unknown, Matlab Bazar was not far away from the recent disaster in East Pakistan and the difficulty of bringing relief has been well appreciated by the Pakistan-SEATO Laboratory staff. SEATO has voted a sum of money for the disaster relief and it is hoped that this will be spent in the long term under the auspices of the Laboratory.

Although the treatment of cholera was not the original purpose of the programme, it was found impossible to study the disease without providing such facilities. The treatment of cholera has therefore

itself come under close scrutiny and the study has shown that:

- The disease is self-limiting, i.e., will burn itself out in as little as 24 hours if the patient can be kept fit, which means basically "hydrated".
- Although in extreme cases of dehydration intravenous fluid is the only answer, in many cases this can be done orally.
- The oral method can be administered in the field by personnel with minimum medical training and is extremely economical, the basic ingredients being available in local markets even in primitive areas. (See SEATO RECORD, Vol.9, no.1, "Oral treatment for cholera.")

SEATO will be proceeding to publicise the oral treatment method in the near future, but the emergence of so simple an answer to a dangerous disease has of course cast doubts on present policies of vaccination. It has been calculated by the Laboratory that 30,000 inoculations might obviate 60 cases of cholera. As modern treatment has reduced mortality to negligible proportions, is it not worth concentrating on treatment especially in rural areas, rather than attempt what is very often the insuperable problem, administratively and financially, of inoculation?

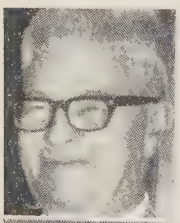
It has been shown now that the duration of immunity from the standard vaccines is rarely as long as six months and that the protection given is often of a very low order. Although the Laboratory is about to embark on the field trials of a new toxoid at present being prepared in the United States and Great Britain, which may alter the attitude to immunisation, it cannot be said that the present position is satisfactory.

The types of cholera which are at present recognised are divided into two: classical and El Tor, and both split into two serological types called OGAWA and INABA. Studies to date show that the El Tor infections are mild and due to the low hospitalisation rates an outbreak could spread without being first noticed. This in itself might invalidate attempts at mass inoculation.

We have as a result of activities at the Pakistan-SEATO Laboratory a clear picture of the incidence of the disease, its treatment and the types of cholera that occur. Work continues on the mystery of why exacerbations of virulence occur when the disease is constantly present in situation where nothing can at present be done about the sanitary conditions responsible for the spread. Also concentrated research continues into the precise mechanism by which the vibrio causes the intense diarrhea which inevitably resulted in a quick death.

The problem of the periodic epidemic has been one of the concerns of the environmental studies at Matlab Bazar. The meticulous day-to-day study of this rural population, not easy in the early years due to the mistrust of primitive villagers of inquisitive newcomers, has had unexpected corollaries. The data collected has been shown to be demographically unique, and the results to be expected from a detailed study so interesting that a full time demographic expert is now at work on the figures and will be joined by a second shortly.

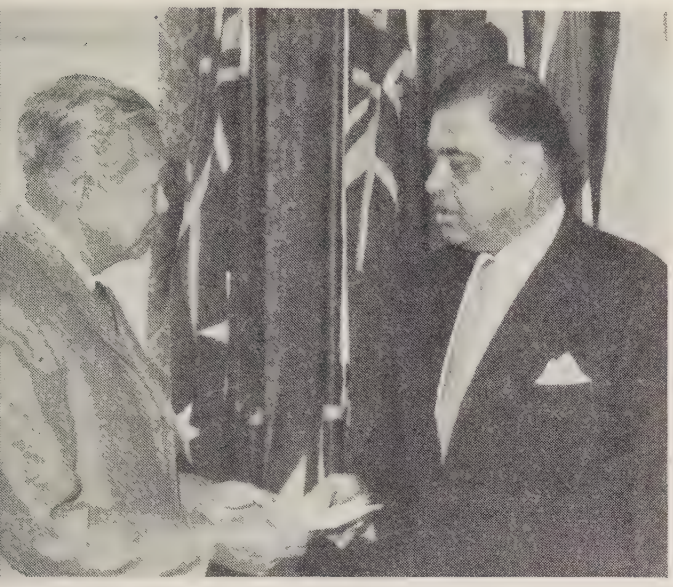
The problems of sanitation and hygiene which have made the survival of cholera in some areas of the world permanent and endemic are not liable to be resolved for a very long time. The work of the Laboratory is therefore essential and welcome to the world at large. Not only must SEATO take credit for giving birth to the laboratory, but the USA who largely finance the laboratory, Pakistan who provide the facilities and all the member nations who contribute must now know that this experiment has in only ten years shown itself to be a great success.



Dr. Robert A. Phillips assumed directorship of the Pakistan-SEATO Research Laboratory in 1965. Upon concluding his term in December last year Dr. Phillips was presented the Sitara-i-Quaid-i-Azam by the President of Pakistan, General A.M. Yahya Khan for his eminent services to the country.

The new Director Dr. W. Kendrick Hare has been serving in the dual capacity of Deputy Director and Head of the Physiology Division. Mrs. Hare is also a staff member of the Laboratory and works in her husband's Division. The Laboratory employs over 700 scientists, technicians, nurses and others.

SEATO Assistance For Pakistan's Flood Victims



● *Immediately after the cyclone the Organization made a grant of US$5,000 to the Pakistan Government for flood relief work. SEATO Secretary-General Jesus Vargas is pictured handing over the cheque to Pakistan Ambassador to Thailand Mr. M. Rabb.*

VOLUNTARY contributions made by the staff at SEATO Headquarters and the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory for victims of the East Pakistan cyclone last November will be used to help purchase a fishing boat.

When the fund was closed, Mr. H. Docherty, the Director of Cultural and Economic Affairs at SEATO Headquarters wrote to the Director of the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory in Dacca asking for advice on how the money could be best used to assist the cyclone victims. The recommendation was to donate the money to a volunteer relief organization called HELP (Heartland Emergency Life-saving Project) of which some of the volunteers involved are associated with the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory. Part of HELP's rehabilitation programme includes farming-fishing cooperatives and outfitting them with sea-going fishing boats. The committee in charge of the SEATO contributions agreed to this proposal and a cheque for US$487 has been forwarded to the HELP organization.

Top Representation for MEDICAL SEMINAR

PROMINENT specialists from many countries will be attending the SEATO Medical Seminar to be held in Bangkok during 22-25 February 1971 to study the methodology of medical research in a developing country.

These include Dr. W.P. Rogers and Professor J.F.A. Sprent from Australia, Dr. H.C. Hsieh, Taiwan, Dr. Edgardo T. Caparas and Dr. Jaquin Sompaico, of the Philippines and Professor J.D. Gillet from the United Kingdom. Dr. Rogers is of the Department of Entomology, Waite Agricultural Research Institute, University of Adelaide and Professor Sprent from the Department of Parasitology, University of Queensland, Dr. Hsieh, is from the Department of Parasitology, Kaohsiung Medical College and Professor Gillet, the Department of Applied Biology, Brunel University London. Dr. Sompaico is Director of the Bureau of Research and Laboratory, Manila, and Dr. Caparas, the Philippine Medical Association.

Within Thailand the Seminar has attracted a great deal of attention and private organizations have come forward to lend their assistance. Esso Standard Oil Company (Thailand) and the Bangkok Bank are sponsoring the attendance of Thai doctors from rural areas to the Seminar including those who have been working closely with the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory teams over the past decade. It is the accumulated experience gained by the Laboratory in the 10 years of its existence in the conduct of field-orientated medical research that SEATO is anxious to share and to submit to critical examination since such research is an essential prelude to the implementation of any health care system.

There is every indication of similar high representation from the other SEATO member nations and Indonesia and Korea, which have also been invited to attend the Seminar.

● *Glaciers of the Ice Age that lasted from 3 million to 10,000 years ago carved the long narrow Fiord now called Doubtful Sound. Moored in Deep Cove at the head of the Sound, the old tour ship Wanganella now serves as a floating hostel for workers on the tailrace tunnel of the Manapouri hydro-electric project. Water drawn from Lake Manapouri will drop vertically 700 feet to an underground power house and then flow through six miles of tunnel to discharge into Deep Cove.*

Ingenious New Ze

ABSENCE of many vital raw materials has long held back development of major secondary industry in New Zealand. In particular, the essential foundation for development of heavy industry is a steel manufacturing industry, but lacking economic deposits of conventional iron ores, New Zealand until now has been unable to develop a successful steel industry.

Now ingenuity has found a solution for this seemingly insurmountable obstacle. New Zealand is about to become the first country to establish a steel industry based on ironsands instead of conventional iron ore.

completion.

One essential sinew of industry of which New Zealand has no shortage, nor should ever have, is electric power.

With the country's lavish endowment of rivers and lakes, hydro-electric schemes provide 75 per cent of New Zealand's electricity—and it is among the cheapest in the world. The North and South Islands are covered by a grid of transmission lines interconnected by submarine cables across tempestuous Cook Strait.

There are also conventional coal and oil-fired power stations, but the most spectacular source of the abundant electricity supply is the geothermal-electric project at Wairakei, which has now been producing electricity for more than a decade.

The Wairakei geothermal-electric station, second largest undertaking of its kind in the world, is in the middle of the volcanic belt, 150 miles long and 30 miles wide, that slashes across the centre of the North Island.

Now something over 100 bores have been drilled at Wairakei to tap this vast underground power reservoir and harness it for the generation of more than 11 per cent of New Zealand's total power production.

Deep in the south-west corner of New Zealand's South Island, in the heart of the scenically superb Fiordland, a huge hydro-electric project now nearing completion makes not only a further con-

anders plan for future

In 1960 the New Zealand Government set up the N.Z. Steel Investigating Company to advise the Government on the possibilities of establishing an iron and steel industry.

The outcome was a strong recommendation that an iron and steel industry based on local raw materials should be established as soon as possible. The South Auckland area, with its twin advantages of close access to supplies of major raw materials—ironsands, coal and limestone—and handiness to the main local industrial market, was recommended as the site. Today, the resulting steel plant on a 1000-acre site at Glenbrook, 40 miles from Auckland, is nearing

tribution to meeting the growing power needs, but another major step forward in the development of heavy secondary industry.

This is the 700-megawatt Manapouri hydro project. In itself it involves drawing into an underground powerhouse water from a lake—Lake Manapouri—whose surface is 600 ft. above sea level, and discharging the water by a tunnel passing under a mountain range into a fiord of the Tasman Sea.

Lake Manapouri, with 100 miles of shore line enclosing a surface area of 55 square miles, is fed in turn by the 80 ft. higher and much larger (138 square miles) Lake Te Anau.

Interest in using the power potential of the fall of water from these lakes to sea level began more than 60 years ago, but the gigantic nature of the scheme and the remoteness and formidability of the locality—one of the wettest, loneliest, wildest regions in New Zealand—deterred any progress until recent years, when the development of the power project was linked with the establishment of an aluminium smelter.

Now, when the hydro project is completed, transmission lines will carry power across rugged mountains and plunging valleys to the aluminium plant to be built at Bluff, the port for the region's main centre, Invercargill.

As well as feeding into the national power grid, Manapouri will fire a new industry by supplying the huge quantities of electric power necessary to transform alumina imported from Australia into a projected annual output of 250,000 tons of aluminium ingots.

Nearby, in Dusky Sound, just 200 years ago, Captain Cook gently stirred the fringe of a new land when he let his travel-weary crew have a ramble ashore and brewed that first drop of New Zealand beer mentioned earlier.

What has been created since is self-evidence of the ingenious New Zealanders.

● *Rock excavators lead a Troglodytic existence as they toil to hew from living rock 700 ft. underground the cavernous powerhouse machine hall for the Manapouri hydro-electric project. The machine hall, 364 ft. long and 59 ft. wide, will house seven turbo-generators each of 100,000 kilowatts capacity.*

SOUTH VIETNAM: ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1970

BOTH the United States and the Republic of Vietnam can look back on 1970 with a feeling of accomplishment, despite a paucity of progress at the Paris peace conference.

South Vietnam's armed forces increased in strength (to 1.1 million) and effectiveness, assumed complete responsibility for river and coastal naval operations, and extended the sovereignty of the government to additional villages and hamlets. Meanwhile, U.S. troop strength in South Vietnam declined to a three-year low, and by mid-December stood at 360,000—from a 1968 peak of 549,500.

Participatory democracy—initiated at the national and local levels in 1966—came to the provincial level with election of watch dog advisory councils to the 44 province chiefs and to the mayors of the six automonous cities. And, as half of the upper legislative body's 60 seats became vacant, two new forces emerged on the political scene. A ten-man slate backed by the heretofore apolitical An Quang Buddhists was successful, as was a ticket representing South Vietnam's largest trade union. A third slate regarded as pro-administration was elected—the other winning tickets being labeled as "opposition" or "neutral," respectively.

By year's end, less than three percent of the nation's 17.4 million people were living in areas rated "contested" or fully controlled by the communists.

More than 20,500 Vietnamese families moved from the tenant farmer class to the landowner category as South Vietnam launched a land reform program described as the most innovative and comprehensive measure of its kind in Asian history. The "land to the tiller" law is designed to transfer title, free from absentee or non-tilling landlords to the men and women who actually cultivate the land.

Eventually, more than one million hectares (2.5 million acres) will be transferred, at an estimated cost to the government—which reimburses the former landowners—of 195,000 million piastres (1,650 million dollars).

South Vietnam's progress also is attributed by allied officials to the two-month joint U.S./South Vietnamese campaign into former communist sanctuaries inside Cambodia.

Despite President Nixon's assurance that "our purpose is not to occupy these areas," and that "once enemy forces are driven out of these sanctuaries and once their supplies are destroyed we will withdraw," the Cambodian operation touched off mixed reactions in the United States and abroad.

Between April 20 and April 30, the President pointed out, communist forces had attacked a number of key cities in neutral Cambodia. "Their objective was unmistakable—to link together bases they had maintained in Cambodia for five years in violation of Cambodian neutrality." he charged.

On June 29—24 hours ahead of President Nixon's self-imposed deadline—the last American forces in Cambodia recrossed the border into South Vietnam. During 60 days of joint operations, the allies:

— Killed 11,349 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong and captured 2,328;

— Seized 22,892 individual weapons and 2,509 crew-served weapons;

— Captured munitions including 4,067,177 machine gun rounds, 10,694,990 rifle cartridges, 68,539 mortar rounds, and 45,283 large and small rockets, 62,022 grenades, 5,482 mines, and 83,000 pounds of miscellaneous explosives;

— Took from communist caches 14,046,000 pounds of foodstuffs, including enough rice to feed 309,012 men for an entire month.

An additional bonus, military observers report, was the effect the highly successful operation had on the morale of the South Vietnamese armed forces.

Meanwhile, the Paris peace talks droned on toward the second anniversary of their inception, with little indication that Hanoi intends to relax its intransigent attitude of insisting on unacceptable pre-conditions before starting a meaningful dialogue.

The Vietnamese communists insist that the U.S. unilaterally and immediately withdraw all troops from South Vietnam, and that the South Vietnamese government be dissolved and replaced by a "coalition" government—terms which the allies consider unacceptable. Thus the impasse in Paris.

DISAFFECTION AMONG SOVIET ELITE

DESPITE rigid controls and repressions within the Soviet Union, "open disaffection has spread among the Soviet intellectual elite, and for first time an opposition has arisen which is not Marxist in its premises."

This is the conclusion of Lewis S. Feuer, noted authority on Soviet affairs and Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto. His analysis—titled "THE INTELLIGENTSIA IN OPPOSITION"—appears in the current issue of PROBLEMS OF COMMUNISM, a bimonthly journal published in Washington.

The two foremost disaffected groups in the Soviet Union today, according to Mr. Feuer, "the scientific opposition" and "the literary oppsition." His analysis discusses, in turn, each of these groups.

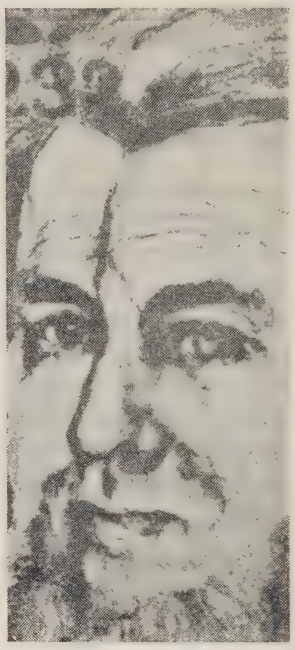
The problems of scientists in ihe Soviet Union, the university of Toronto professor writes, date back more than 30 years to the time when "Soviet science nearly succumbed to the awful blight of Stalinism. For many years Soviet scientists were deprived of contacts with their foreign colleagues and were often assigned arbitrarily to military-oriented research. When the dean of Soviet physicists, Piotr Kapitsa, resisted such an assignment, he was placed under house arrest for seven years, and other scientists suffered fates far worse."

Kapitsa today, Mr. Feuer notes, is a "foremost critic of the intrusion of Marxist ideology in physics. He wrote in 1962 that if Soviet scientists had obeyed the Marxist philosophers, the conquest of space would have been impossible because the Marxists rejected cybernetics.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, recently awarded the 1970 Nobel Prize for Literature, is in the vanguard of the literary opposition. Describing the famed Russian author as "a man of immense moral authority as well as literary genius, "Mr. Feuer says that "he does not conceal his contempt for the hypocricy embedded in the Soviet social system."

In the Soviet Union today, says Mr. Feuer, "from the standpoint of intellectual development, the most remarkable and novel fact is that Soviet intellectuals—for the first time in many years—are discussing the questions: How will the instabilities of Soviet society evolve? Will that society break down, and if so, when and how?"

"What has hitherto been treated as an 'unproblem'—namely, the inherent 'contradictions' in Soviet society,—has now become a real problem," Mr. Feuer says. "Solzhenitsyn, for one, is confident that the system will eventually collapse, and that its minions will then try to explain away their signatures to neo-Stalinist documents."



A. Solzhenitsyn

Britain hands out more aid

A big jump in Britain's aid to developing nations in 1969 was shown in revised figures released in London by the Overseas Development Ministry. Britain gave US $1,063,631,000 in aid against just over $754,450,000 in 1968.

This represented 0.97 per cent of the Gross National Product (0.74 in 1968)—just under the one per cent called for by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Commonwealth countries collected $374,837,000 of Britain's bilateral aid, including $133,700,000 in Africa and $140,862,500 in South and South-East Asia. India received $81,175,000, Pakistan $26,262,000, Kenya $19,100,000, and Malawi $16,712,500.

About $105,050,000 of Britain's aid bill went in technical assistance, including the provision of experts, training, research and survey.

Britain was owed a total of $3,039,287,500 at the end of 1969 in interest and amortisation.

WORLD CONCERN OVER HANOI'S TREATMENT OF POWS

by **a Special Correspondent**

AT the United Nations, at the Paris Peace Talks, and elsewhere around the world, the theatment of war prisoners in North Vietnam is an issue that will persist until Hanoi reacts positively to the need for a remedy.

On December 1 the U.N. General Assembly's Social Committee passed a resolution urging Secretary General U Thant to exert all efforts to obtain humane treatment for prisoners of war. As far as South-East Asia is concerned, this pointed directly at North Vietnam, since the United States and South Vietnam have rigorously complied with all provisions of the Geneva Conventions including opening for inspection the camps where 36,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong are being held.

In the United States, heavy coverage by press, radio and television has brought the issue before the American public with dramatic impact. Among the latest to address the matter was Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee in a December 1 speech in Meridian, Mississippi.

Recalling his talks with a young U.S. Navy lieutenant who had been held prisioner, Mr. Chafee said he had been told "how he was beaten, his wounds untreated, held in solitary confinement until he began talking to the rats, forced to sit on a narrow stool moving for four days until his legs bloated, and he lost consciousness and fell off."

In 22 months' imprisonment the lieutenant lost almost 70 pounds because of mistreatment and deliberately induced malnutrition, Mr. Chafee reported.

"He told me," the Navy Secretary recalled, "about other prisoners who had had their fingernails pulled out, who had been hung from the ceilings of their cells, who had been dragged along the ground with broken legs, who had not been allowed to sleep or eat for long periods of time."

North Vietnam, he pointed out, has never allowed inspections or interviews, has not officially released the name of any prisoners, has not allowed a free flow of correspondence to and from the prisoners. They have, he said, exploited prisoners for propaganda purposes and paraded them to public abuse, all in violation of the Geneva Conventions.

Various sources in the United States have received unofficial word that a total of 22 Americans have died in North Vietnamese prison camps, without a word from the government in Hanoi.

"In all the modern history of man's inhumanity to man", Mr. Chafee said, "there is no example of crueler or more inhuman treatment."

Meanwhile, the latest of four Congressional committees to hear testimony on the prisoner-of-war issue was the House Armed Services Committee. On December 3, Armistead I. Selden, Jr., acting Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, was the witness.

Committee members voted to recommend that the United States refuse to negotiate other matters with North Vietnam "until there is substantive progress on the prisoner of war issue."

Mr. Selden reported that the International Conference of the Red Cross, which in a September, 1969, meeting in Istanbul unanimously adopted a resolution calling for humane treatment of war prisoners and compliance with the Geneva Accord, has been no more successful than other approaches.

The American Red Cross, he pointed out, had tried eleven times to communicate with the North Vietnamese Red Cross since 1966. "It has, unfortunately," he said, "received only two replies—both unsatisfactory."

Private groups and individual are increasingly showing exasperation with Hanoi. In the United States, he said, "we have seen entire cities and communities organizing to demonstrate this country's unanimity of concern for our missing and captured men."

These private efforts, he said, are so extensive that a full list would be impossible to compile. Among the activities he mentioned are petitions and letter-writing campaigns, financing trips to South-East Asia and Paris for wifes of war prisoners, and high school students seeking expressions of concern from every governor and state legislature in the nation. □

NOTES on the POLISH RIOTS

THE riots which broke out in the Baltic area cities of Poland and spread to other Polish cities during the week of 14 December were only the most recent in a series of workers' uprisings against the communist governments of Eastern Europe.

One of the earliest instances of these riots occurred on 16 June 1953, when an estimated 50,000 German workers in East Berlin and several towns of Saxony began demonstrating against increased work quotas set by the communist regime.

The demonstrations quickly erupted into anti-communist riots, accompanied by a general strike involving 200,000 East Germans.

With the help of Soviet tanks, the uprising was put down. In two days, 569 persons were killed, 1,744 wounded and an estimated 50,000 arrested.

Three years later, on June 28, 1956, Polish workers in Poznan rose in rebellion against low living standards. By the time those demonstrations were suppressed, the death toll had reached 60, with hundreds of other workers injured.

It was in the wake of the Poznan riots that the now deposed Polish Communist Party leader Wladyslaw Gomulka came to power.

The following October, Hungary's spontaneous revolt against communist rule erupted. Here again, as in East Berlin and Poznan, economic failures were the crux of workers' discontent. The ironworkers of Hungary's largest industrial plant, for example, played a prominent role in leading demonstrations against a faltering economy and Soviet domination.

The crisis in Hungary began on 22 October, 1956, when thousands of university students assembled for a series of debates. These discussions led to the drafting of demands for the abolition of political and economic domination by Moscow, the withdrawal of Soviet occupation forces which had been in Hungary since 1944, and the scheduling of free elections.

After an initial withdrawal of Soviet forces from the country, Soviet troops and tanks then re-entered Hungary and quickly put down the disturbances in Budapest and elsewhere. Although Hungary's freedom fighters fought desperately, the struggle soon ended in the face of Soviet forces estimated at 200,000 troops, 4,600 tanks and squadrons of aircraft.

World-wide attention once again was focused on Eastern Europe when Soviet-led Warsaw pact troops invaded Czechoslovakia in August, 1968. The invasion was the culmination of a series of events dating back to January of that year when Alexander Dubcek became Communist Party leader after a coalition of reform-minded Party member, intellectuals and students had overthrown the previous hard-line Stalinist leadership.

Mr. Dubcek and his supporters had attempted to deal with widespread economic and political discontent through a series of reforms aimed at building "communism with a human face."

Most of these reforms were, however, brought to a swift end with the Soviet invasion.

Not even the Soviet Union itself has been immune to riotous manifestations of its citizens' impatience with the adverse effect of central economic planning upon their standards of living.

When the Soviet government on June 1, 1962, announced sharp increases in the price of meat and butter, the result was a wave of anger throughout the USSR. Sit-down strikes and workers' demonstrations took place in factories and street riots occurred in some cities.

News of these events was so thoroughly suppressed by the Kremlin at the time that the world learned of them only through reports smuggled uot of the country later. □

BRITISH SAPPERS HELP THE DRY THAIS

● Villagers of Ban Chuk Wa in Ratchaburi Province, Thailand, watch British Royal Engineers drill a well which will give the local Thais a plentiful supply of water during the dry season.

Engineers work day and night on aid project under SEATO

Bangkok, Thailand

HEAVY manual work under tropical conditions is never easy at the best of times, but when it is carried out at night with insects nibbling at various parts of the anatomy any task is doubly arduous.

And yet British Sappers working on a British aid project in Thailand shrug off such discomforts—"We're here to do a job, a worthwhile job, and we're going to finish it," explained Captain Jim Jackson.

Capt. Jackson is second-in-command of a small team of specialists from the British Army's Corps of Royal Engineers which is working day and night on a project which is bringing fresh water supplies to villages and isolated communities around Chom Bung in Ratchaburi Province, about 100 miles west of Bangkok.

The project is part of Britain's bi-lateral assistance under the South-East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO). It is expected that British aid on the project will total more than £100,000 over two years.

The specialist team of Sappers is digging deep and shallow wells in various parts of Ratchaburi Province, and has also undertaken other construction work, including building a school. Over a two-year period three teams, each of about 30 men, will have been engaged at different times on the project which began in late 1969.

● *Sapper Richard Davison, (bare to the waist) and L/Cpl. Anthony Masselis, work on a drilling rig at Ban Chuk Wa, about 100 miles west of Bangkok.*

One of the Sappers' first tasks was to drill a well at the Chom Bung Institute which is the only school in Thailand to

● *Maintenance work on the rigs is usually carried out at night. Attracted by the glare of the lights, insects can make life uncomfortable for the Sappers on this shift.*

OUT goes the old... IN come the new

● *Villagers at Choa Boek Phrai put in a lot of effort to get just a little water from the old well. Then the British sappers drilled a new well from which the locals can expect to draw 80 gallons of water a minute.*

● *The generator for the pumphouse of the new well arrives at Choa Boek Phrai.*

train agricultural students in modern farming methods and animal husbandry. Previously the institute had to close during the hot dry season in April and May for lack of water, and 500 students had to be sent home.

With its new well, the institute now has enough water for year-round study and the student intake can eventually be increased to over 1,000.

By the time the project is completed at the end of this year at least 12 new wells will have been drilled by the British engineers.

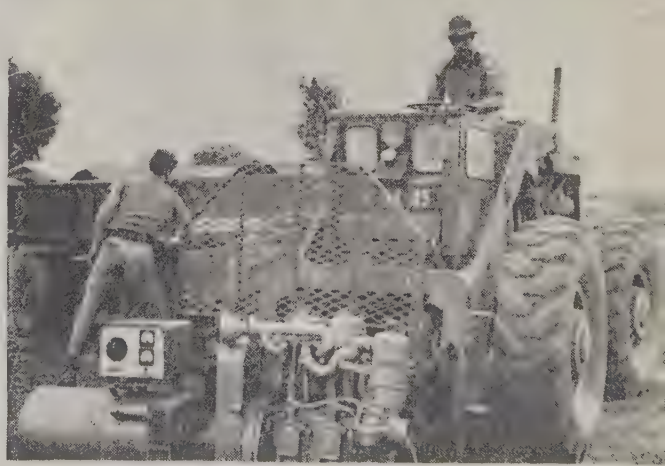
The gratitude of the Thais is all too evident in and around Chom Bung. The locals regard the Sappers as "good friends" and invite them to all their festivals.

The Deputy Governor of Ratchaburi Province, Mr. Charinyaa Puingsaeng, describes the British soldiers as "fine ambassadors for Britain."

"We will be truly sorry to see them leave us. They have given us wells and schools, but more than that—they have become trusted friends of the Thai people," said Mr. Charinyaa.

● *Sappers manoeuvre the generator into position.*

● *Apart from drilling wells, the British Sappers built this village school about ten kilometres from Chom Bung, Ratchaburi Province.*



● *The equipment is safely bedded in.*

● A beautiful scene for the artist's canvas, but collecting the household water supply this way is hard work for the people living in the remote areas of Thailand's Ratchaburi Province. For thousands of rural Thais, however, life has been made easier since British Sappers have provided fresh water wells in isolated areas.

MORE US AID FOR THAILAND

DEFENCE

DURING his two-day visit to Bangkok early last month, US Secretary of Defence Melvin R. Laird assured Thai leaders that his country would provide not only increased direct military aid to Thailand but also make more excess military stocks available.

Mr. Laird pointed out that the increase would be in keeping with the principle of the Nixon Doctrine: combining greater reliance on an ally's own manpower with greater US military assistance. In this context US Forces in Thailand will be reduced from a peak of 48,000 to 32,000 by June 30, he stated.

At the dinner given in his honour by Thailand's Prime Minister Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, Mr. Laird reiterated the meaning of the Nixon Doctrine, calling it, "the doctrine of partnership, of strength, and a willingness to negotiate."

Interpretation of the Nixon Doctrince

He went on to state:

"Some will try to misinterpret the principle of the Nixon Doctrine to put greater emphasis on our military assistance and military cooperation programs rather than rely, as we have sometimes in the past, primarily on American manpower and American presence. We realize in the Department of defense, and the President realizes as he has said on many occasions in his messages to the Congress, in his Foreign Policy report in February of last year, that the Nixon Doctrine as far as military assistance is concerned, through its application whether it be in Asia or in other sections of the world, means a great need, a greater necessity for military assistance and for military cooperation so that we can make the best use of the resources which all of us possess in the mutual defense and the promotion of freedom throughout this world. And those of us who believe in freedom and believe in independence *must* make the best use of the resources which we possess, and that's what the Nixon Doctrine is about as it applies to Asia." ➡

VARGAS-LAIRD meet

During his January visit to Bangkok, Secretary Laird had an hour-long meeting with SEATO Secretary-General Jesus Vargas.

The two officials reviewed the subversive situation in Thailand and expressed great concern over the marked increase in communist terrorist activities in the country during the last year. They examined the effects of the continuing military operations in Cambodia upon the border areas of Thailand. General Vargas suggested that the United States provide assistance designed to improve the capacity of the Royal Thai Armed Forces to conduct special operations and strengthen their ability for border surveillance.

Mr. Laird and General Vargas also discussed the military and political situation elsewhere in Asia, including the Philippines, and the increasingly vital role SEATO is playing in helping the regional members to counter communist subversion and insurgency.

Both officials agreed that United States material and training assistance to the developing countries of Asia was vital to the success of the Nixon Doctrine in this part of the world.

Regarding US-Thai relations, "a spirit of co-operation has existed," Mr. Laird said. "Our troops fought side by side in Korea, they are fighting side by side in Vietnam today. We are in a position where we in our country look forward to this co-operation, this mutual understanding, for years to come. We believe that both countries have benefitted from this understanding and from this cooperation. We believe that it is in the interest of both countries to continue this understanding, this cooperation, in the future. I can assure you that we in the Department of Defense have not only enjoyed this cooperation but look forward with great anticipation to our continuing presence here in your country and to our continuing assistance and mutual understanding which does exist."

Vietnamization Ahead of Schedule

Spending four days in South Vietnam after the Bangkok talks, Secretary Laird told a Saigon departure news conference on January 11 that his visit "reinforced the conviction that vietnamization of the war is ahead of schedule."

A further announcement of additional US troops will be made by President Nixon in April, according to Mr. Laird.

Referring to the President's earlier announcement that American troops in South Vietnam will be reduced to 284,000 by May 1, Mr. Laird said the US "would meet or beat" that goal, as it has all the others in a series of withdrawals since early 1969, when the US troop ceiling was 549,500.

On Cambodia

Mr. Laird made several additional points during his Jan. 11 press conference:

— The allied operations in Cambodia in May and June 1970 were a "tremendous success" which contributed substantially to reduced casualties in South Vietnam in 1970 as well as boosting the morale of South Vietnamese forces.

— He has been "impressed and encouraged" by the response of the Cambodian people and government to the communist threat. He noted, for example, that volunteers for the Cambodian army outnumber rifles available.

— The recent overwhelming approval by the US Congress of an expanded aid program for Cambodia is an example of the successful implementation of the Nixon Doctrine.

— The Nixon administration continues to seek a negotiated settlement to the Indochina conflict and "remains hopeful" that Hanoi will change its attitude and address itself to President Nixon's five-point peace proposal.

Meeting of Friends...

PRIME Minister Thanom Kittikachorn of Thailand and US Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird pictured together at the dinner given by the Prime Minister in Mr. Laird's honour during the latter's visit to Bangkok in January. In his statement on arriving in Thailand, Mr. Laird reaffirmed once again America's policy vis-a-vis this region. "The United States will continue to meet its commitments in this area of the world, he said. "We will continue to help the Thai people in their efforts to restore peace, to maintain peace, and preserve the right of self-determination."

DEFENCE PLANS UPDATED

SOME of the most vital aspects of SEATO defensive plans were reviewed and updated last month at the latest (13th) Conference of the SEATO Communications-Electronics Committee.

Chairman of the 12-day conference was Lt. Col. Cesar Hechanova of the Philippines. Other senior delegates included Lt. Col. J.N. Marsh (Australia), Wing Commander R. Thorpe (New Zealand), Group Captain Vichit Sirukul (Thailand), Col. M.J.R. Fletcher (United Kingdom) and Brigadier General R.N. Cordell (United States).

● *Playing the key roles at the conference were members of the Communications-Electronics Planning Division of the SEATO Military Planning Office, as pictured here (from left):*

Lt. Colonel L.D. Maclean (Australia), the Division Leader and Conference co-ordinator, Commander Su-ed Chantarakka (Thailand), Warrant Officer B.H. Drummond (New Zealand) and Commander F.C. Regan (United Kingdom).

SEATO OFFICER LIASES WITH CENTO

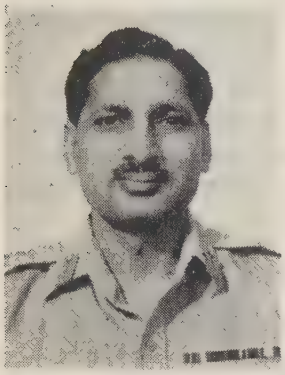
THE Cartographic Coordinating Officer from the SEATO Military Planning Office, Lt. Col. R.M. Silberrad of the United Kingdom, visited Teheran recently as the MPO Observer to the 13th Meeting of the CENTO Maps and Charts Subcommittee. This was part of the regular series of visits carried out by the cartographic officers of both treaty organizations, whereby observers to each other's conferences are exchanged each alternate year.

The meeting was conducted under the Chairmanship of Group Captain Bashir-Ul-Hasan of the Combined Military Planning Staff of CENTO, and delegations from Iran, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States represented their countries. Since both the latter countries are also members of SEATO the cartographic officer met old friends who had attended SEATO Cartographic Meetings in Bangkok.

●

● *Col. Silberrad is pictured below at the CENTO meeting with Col. Lloyd L. Rall, USA, Chief US Delegate.*

Pakistan Officer joins SEATO



Col. Mujib-ur-Rehman Khan has arrived in Bangkok to assume duties as Pakistan's Military Adviser's Representative to SEATO. He succeeds Captain I.H. Malik, who returned to Pakistan recently at the end of his tour of duty.

Colonel Mujib-ur-Rehman Khan joined Pakistan Army in March 1949 and was commissioned in 1951. He became Lt. Col. in 1967 and was promoted to his present rank in 1970. During his service he has done staff/instructional jobs as a Brigade Major (1960-65); Instructor, psychological operations, at Army School (1962-65); and Grade II staff officer in the Directorate of Military Operations 1965-66. Affter graduating from Command and Staff College QUETTA in 1960, he commanded Infantry Battalion from 1967 to 1969, and before his SEATO assignment was on the instructional staff of the Command and Staff College QUETTA from 1969 to 1970.

VISITORS...

In the past months SEATO has played host to several groups of visitors representing both civilian and military sectors of member nations. From Thailand came the National Defence College headed by General Chaveng Youngcharoen and the Royal Thai Navy Staff College under the leadership of Admiral Prasert Dhuamrerngrom. On these occasions briefings and discussions on SEATO activities and defence matters are held and constitute part of the informal exchange whereby the Organization keeps in close touch with key figures of its member governments.

Pictured at right—Brigadier General Felix Pestana of the Philippines, Deputy Chief of the SEATO Military Planning Office in conversation with General Chaveng In centre is Deputy Secretary-General Robert Hyslop.

● *It was their first visit to SEATO, and to commemorate the occasion the Royal Thai Navy Staff College presented a memento to Secretary-General Jesus Vargas on their arrival at Headquarters. Here Admiral Prasert makes the presentation to the Secretary-General with Mr. Hyslop looking on.*

NEW CHIEF MPO

MAJOR General R.A. Hay CB, MBE, Australia, who has arrived in Bangkok to take up duties as Chief, SEATO Military Planning Office was born in April 1920 and joined the Australian Regular Army as a Lieutenant in 1939.

During the Second World War he served with Australian and Allied Forces in the Pacific reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In 1944 he attended the United States Command and Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.

He served in the Headquarter British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan in 1946 before returning as Assistant Quartermaster General, Army Headquarter in Australia.

In 1950-51 General Hay was an instructor at the Australian Staff College and then commanded 3rd Battalian, Royal Australian Regiment in 1955. Later that year he was appointed to Temporary Colonel and served as the Australian Army Representative and Military Attache in Washington.

Following substantiation as a Colonel in 1957 General Hay was appointed Director of Administrative Planning at Australian Army Headquarter in 1959. In 1962 he became Defence Representative in Singapore and Malaya.

In 1964, following his promotion to Brigadier he attended the British Imperial Defence College. In 1966 he became Director of Military Operation and Plans, Australian Army Headquarter.

In 1967 as a Temporary Major General he became Deputy Chief of the General Staff and 5th Military Member of the Military Board. In 1969 he was appointed Commander Australian Forces in Vietnam.

On his return to Australia in 1970 General Hay became Commander, 1st Australian Division, the appointment which he left to become Chief, Military Planning Officer in January 1971.

● *Mr. Pote Sarasin, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, welcoming General Hay when the latter recently paid a courtesy call at Government House. Mr. Pote served as SEATO Secretary-General from 1957 to 1963.*

● *On arrival at Bangkok Airport. Major General R.A. Hay and Mrs. Hay, garlanded in the Thai style, with Wing Commander Kelley Griffiths, New Zealand, Deputy Chief (Military) of the SEATO Office of Public Information.*

A SEATO Occasion...

● With the arrival of Major General R.A. Hay, Australia (see preceding page), Brigadier General Felix Pestana, Acting Chief of the SEATO Military Planning Office since last July, has formally assumed duties as its Deputy Chief. He is pictured here, however, in an informal, albeit traditional, act of planting a tree (Crepemyrtle) in the Headquarters compound to mark the occasion. Pictured with General Pestana are Mr. W.J. Kramer, SEATO Director of Public Information; and Col. D. Jaranella, Jr., Philippine Military Adviser's Representative to SEATO.

CHANGEOVER...

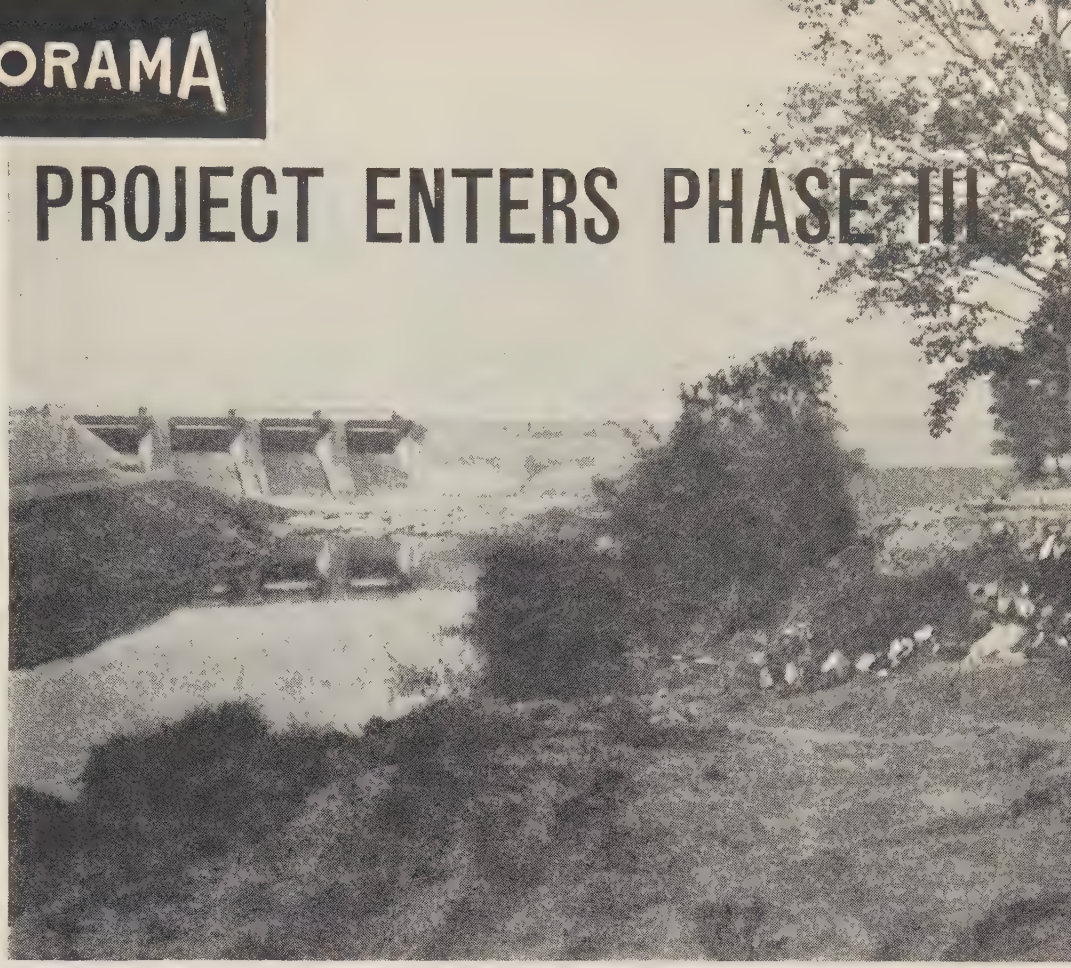
COLONEL W.D. Jamieson, the Australian Military Adviser's Representative at the SEATO Military Planning Office for the past two years left for Australia on 20 January to become Director of Military Intelligence at Australian Army Headquarters in Canberra.

He is succeeded by Group Captain D.F. Gilson, Royal Australian Air Force, who arrived in Bangkok on 25 January.

Group Captain Gilson completed two tours on bomber aircraft as a navigator during the Second World War including time with the Pathfinder Force. He also completed a tour on transport aircraft. He has held various flying, command and staff appointments including an exchange on the United Kingdom Defence Intelligence Staff. Prior to his appointment at SEATO, Group Captain Gilson was on the Directing Staff of the Australian Services Staff College.

● *First day in office....Group Captain Gilson, the new Australian Military Adviser's Representative, exhanging greetings with Warrant Officer J.R.E. Allman, a native of Brisbane who has served in Bangkok since 1968 as Assistant to the Australian MAR.*

MEKONG PROJECT ENTERS PHASE III



● *The completion in 1966 of Ubol Ratana dam in north-eastern Thailand marked a significant progress in the speedy execution of the Mekong development programme undertaken jointly by Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and South Vietnam under United Nations auspices.*

AN appropriation of $2,518,000 has been approved by the United Nations Development Programme for continued support of the Mekong Project, whose objective is to utilize the immense potential resources of this mighty river for the further development of the whole area.

The project is executed on UNDP's behalf by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), and the latest appropriation signifies institutional support to the Mekong Committee as it moves into Phase III.

This will comprise a two-year project designed to assist the governments of Thailand, Laos, South Vietnam and Cambodia, during a transitional period for the program, in further advancing the pre-investment activities of the committee.

Those activities include data collection, project planning and staff training and preparation of large-scale projects to develop the water resources of the Lower Mekong Basin. The first two phases of the project began in 1964 and ended in 1970. Under the auspices of the committee, three tributary dams have been built, five are underconstruction and several more have been proved feasible and await financing.

Feasibility studies have been completed for the first two mainstream projects, and considerable work has been done on studies of agriculture and navigation.

Also in 1970, the Mekong secretariat completed a draft Indicative Basin Plan to prepare a framework for development of the Lower Mekong Basin during the years 1971-2000. External investment for Mekong Committee-sponsored projects has reached almost $200 million. External support for the projects will decrease as the role of the four nations benefiting from the projects increases, a UNDP paper has cited.

● *The Mekong River is 4,600 metres in length and each year pours more than 400,000,000 acre feet of water into the South China sea. The United Nations Mekong programme ultimately aims at bettering the lives of the people along its banks some of whom are pictured here.*

Farmers of South Vietnam FACE A

LONG known as one of Asia's most prolific rice bowls, Vietnam was an exporter of the staple grain until six years ago. But war's drain on the manpower pool and damage to the agricultural infrastructure sharply reduced the nation's capacity to grow the food it needs. Communist harassment took land out of production and forced many farmers to flee the countryside, curtailing rice cultivation in the mid-1960s on as much as 15 per cent of the normally cultivated area. Other farmers left the soil for the lure of war-boom wages in the cities. Prior to 1965, 85 per cent of the people lived on the land and 85 per cent of the rice, chickens and pigs were consumed within five or six kilometers of where they were produced. As the war escalated, the shift of population from rural to urban areas accelerated. Particularly noticeable in 1967, the migration left only 60 to 65 per cent of the people on the farms. The rest of the peasants joined the ranks on non-productive consumers, increasing demand while lowering supply at urban markets and refugee camps.

Today the Saigon government is convinced the nation can become agriculturally rich again through extension of rural security and application of modern technologies. Development efforts are aimed at creating a sizeable corps of farmers who will grow more than just the food their families need for their own subsistence—progressive farmers who will gamble on new seeds, new tools and techniques, new investment and new, more demanding work schedules in order to increase their incomes by producing surpluses for urban consumption and export. The government recognizes that only when the Republic is agriculturally self-sufficient will it be able to concentrate sufficient resources on industrial development and other means of raising living standards.

There are a number of support projects—a broad range from vaccine manufacture to farm training seminars—but probably the most important at the moment is a coordinated scheme for the more liberal dispensation of low-cost farm credit. No innovation in agricultural techniques, no expansion into new ventures like second and third-crop rice transplanting or supplementary field crop farming or vegetable gardening, can be expected to succeed so long as the peasant does not have the money to

● *A new breed of farmers are growing up in Vietnam—more skilled, more knowledgeable, and with a greater confidence in the future.*

invest in new equipment, irrigation and the other expenses of modern farming. Commercial banks have loaned little of their funds to agriculture because it is a high-risk enterprise, and peasants needing cash have plunged themselves and succeeding generations into the perpetual clutches of village moneylenders. But now the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) is expanding operations to reach more small farmers unable to put up collateral for farm expansion loans, and the government has encouraged the recent establishment of private banks in the provinces specializing just in rural credit. The locally managed rural banks, patterned after the Philippines' successful system, and the government-controlled ADB, through

IGHTER FUTURE

its regular lending program and a series of special project loans, have made farm credit a key adjunct to the agrarian development effort.

Miracle Rice

The provision of more credit facilities has facilitated Vietnam's acceptance of the new high-yielding rice strains, the IR-8 and IR-5 developed at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines. Quick-growing, they can provide two and, in some areas, three crops a year with dry-season irrigation. Credit usually is necessary for such a venture, because it requires investment in water pumps, in labor for new dike building, insecticides, sprayers, and the extra amount of fertilizer that transplanted rice can profitably absorb compared with local rices. Two crops a year mean twice as much work for the farmer, but the far greater profits have convinced many Vietnamese to take the gamble.

The new rice strains are called Than Nong, or sometimes "the Honda rice" because its extra profits have enabled many peasants to buy motorized, two-wheeled private transportation, has been well received by the farmer and by the housewife. Than Nong cooks up to a bigger bowl of rice than older varieties, and most palates have adjusted to the new taste, despite initial resistance, since it was introduced in the fall of 1967.

Traditional rice seeds yield only about two tons per hectare, while Than Nong averages five tons and record yields up to 16 tons per hectare have been recorded. A farmer planting the old rice has a marketable surplus of only about 100 kilos per hectare after he meets his expenses. But a farmer planting Than Nong and averaging four tons per hectare can expect to market at least 1,100 kilos per hectare after expenses. Thus he takes the first big step from subsistence farming toward commercial farming.

According to a Vinh Long farmer: "It cost me 40,000 piasters to prepare the field, to buy the seed, the insecticides and fertilizer, and to pay some men to help me plant. If I had used local rice it would have cost me only 15,000 piasters for such preparations. But when the rice was harvested and sold, I found I had 150,000 piasters, of which 110,000 piasters was clear profit. With the old rice, I would have collected 25,000 piasters and only 10,000 piasters would have been profit. Also, I found I could grow two crops a year with Than Nong, each maturing in four months, instead of one crop of "floating" rice that takes six to seven months to grow."

Not all of Vietnam's farmland is suitable for the high-yield strains and efforts are being made to encourage farmers planting the traditional strains to grow field crops on their land between rice seasons. Than Nong will remain for some time a rice grown on a relatively small portion of the land, with most of the harvest coming from traditional strains. But Than Nong's high yields—already contributing nearly 20 percent of all paddy—will enable Vietnam to meet its basic requirements soon. And the government programme that mixes farm credit and extension counseling with Than Nong cultivation already has done much to convince Vietnamese farmers of the wisdom of adopting modern agricultural methods regardless of the seed they favour.

New ADB Plan

Set up in 1967 the ADB started out with an initial capital of 200 million piasters. Two years later,

● *A Vietnamese farmer proudly showing how well his "Miracle Rice" has been doing. Some farmars have doubled or tripled their crops by planting the new strains.*

● *The Agricultural Development Bank and its nearly 50 branches, such as this one in Bin Dinh province, have been helping farmers acquire the seed, animals and equipment they need for profitable utilization of their land.*

the government authorized an increase in the ADB's working capital to 3,500 million piasters. This compares with the total authorization of 382 million piasters for the three years of 1966 through 1968. During that same three-year period, 1,350 million piasters was contributed from the counterpart fund controlled jointly by the Vietnamese government (GVN) and U.S. AID.

During 1969 the ADB loaned a total of 4,613,-988,766 piasters to Vietnamese farmers and farm organizations.

According to a high-ranking ADB official, one of the ADB's biggest problems is expanding its lending capabilities to meet a swelling demand for farm credit. "Peasants who see what the new techniques can do for their crops," he says, "are eager to borrow. We must do what we can to expand our capacity to serve as many people as possible.

He says 70 per cent of Vietnam's farmers work fewer than five hectares. "These are the people we particularly want to help improve their incomes."

The ADB has evolved a new plan for reaching these people and for processing their loan applications. If, as expected, the plan is approved by the ADB's board of directors, the bank will begin calling on elected village committees for help in processing loan applications.

Although the ADB maintains a branch or lending representative in each of the provinces, its operations have been hampered by a shortage of field personnel to supervise loans. "The young men who are best qualified for that kind of work have all been drafted into the military forces." the official says. "Now our provincial offices just cannot handle a proper volume of loans. But if the village committee can receive and approve and supervise the smaller loans for us, it will be good in two ways: we will be able to provide credit to more people, and the elected village officials will be serving their communities in a meaningful way."

Supplementing the ADB's operations is the new system of private rural banks, a system in which the ADB and Filipino advisers cooperated to see it launched. The first three Vietnamese rural banks were opened during 1969, two in An Giang province and one in Bien Hoa. On February 14, 1970, the fourth rural bank opened in Ba Xuyen province. According to an ADB field specialist. "There should be 200 rural banks operating throughout South Vietnam within five years, even in the most remote areas."

With the land, the climate, the seed, the tools, the cash, the know-how and the willingness, plus steadily growing security in the countryside, the future of agriculture in South Vietnam looks bright.

SEATO contribution to welfare of Thailand'S Border Patrol Police

● *Her Royal Highness the Princess Mother of Thailand recently granted an audience to members of the SEATO Wives Group, who presented her with a cheque for baht 70,437 (approx $3,500) as a contribution to the Foundation for the Welfare of the Border Patrol Police and their families, an organization under the Royal Patronage of the Princess Mother. The donated sum represented proceeds from a SEATO handicraft bazaar organized by the SEATO Wives.*

Picture shows Mrs. Jesus Vargas presenting the cheque to Her Royal Highness. Standing at right is Mrs. Doris Duncan, Chairman of the Bazaar. In background are Mrs. Jose Reyna, Chairman of the SEATO Wives Group, and Mrs. J.R. Haddock, the Bazaar's Secretary.

...And in aid of Philippine Typhoon Victims

● *SEATO handed over a cheque for US$3,000 to be spent on aid for the victims of the recent typhoon, "Patsy", which was reported to have been the worst disaster to hit the Central Philippines for 88 years.*

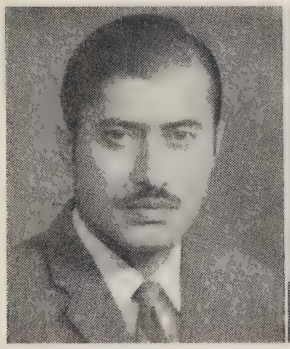
Seen receiving the cheque from SEATO Secretary-General Jesus Vargas is the Philippines Ambassador to Thailand, His Excellency Mr. Mauro Calingo. SEATO Deputy Secretary-General Robert Hyslop (left) was also present at the ceremony.

The latest aid followed the Organization's presentation of US$5,000 towards relief for the victims of the East Pakistan cyclone.

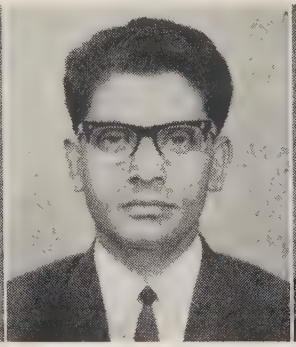
SEATO RESEARCH FELLOWS 70-71

Eleven distinguished scholars and scientists from SEATO member nations have been awarded SEATO Research Fellowships for the year 1970-71. They are pictured here together with information regarding their respective field of specialization ranging from marine biology to linguistics and foreign relations. The Research Fellowship scheme is part of the many-faceted SEATO cultural and economic programme and has been in operation since 1958.

From PAKISTAN

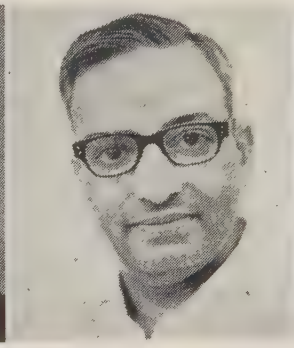


Mr. Syed Shamim Ahmed

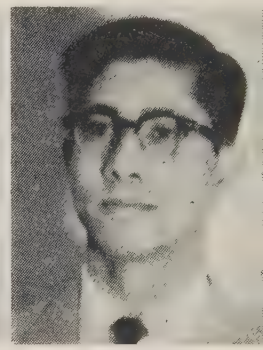


Mr. A.K.M. Aminul Haque

Mr. A.K.M. Nurul Islam



Mr. Saeeduddin Khalifa



Mr. Shamsud Doha

Mr. Syed Shamim Ahmed, Lecturer in Zoology, Sind University. Mr. Ahmed's SEATO-supported project is the use of biochemical techniques and radioactive isotopes in the study of metabolic reactions, life cycle of the filariae, and in clinical and therapeutic problems. A graduate of Sind University who earned his Ph.D. at Liverpool University, England, Mr. Ahmed will conduct part of his research at the latter institution.

Mr. Abul Kalem M. Aminul Haque, Professor and Dean, Fisheries Zoology Dept., East Pakistan Agricultural University, will be studying the feeding habits, distribution and migration of Cetaceans, with special emphasis on those of the gangetic dolphin, *Plantanista gangetica L.* Mr. Haque's itinerary in connection with this project includes visits to Sydney and Wellington. A graduate of the universities of Dacca and Punjab, he obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Nottingham.

Mr. A.K.M, Nurul Islam, a graduate of the University of Dacca (B.Sc. and M.Sc.) and Michigan State University (Ph.D.), now heads the Dept. of Botany at the U. of Dacca. His SEATO-sponsored project: a taxonomic and ecological study of marine algae of the Bay of Bengal. He will be working over the next six months at the University of Adelaide, Australia and at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr. Saeeduddin Khalifa, Professor of Civil Engineering, West Pakistan University of Engineering and Technology, obtained his Ph.D. in Structural Engineering at U. of Toronto. His SEATO project deals with modern techniques of instrumentation and their utilization in the research programme of South-East Asian technical universities. He has been working in Australia and will be spending February in New Zealand before going on to the Philippines.

Mr. Shamsud Doha, Head of the Department of Aquiculture and Management, Faculty of Fisheries, East Pakistan Agricultural University, will be conducting a study on raising food fish in South-East Asia. Mr. Doha obtained his Ph.D. at the Michigan State University.

From AUSTRALIA

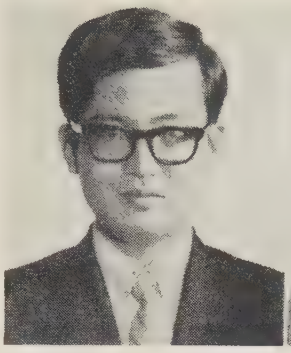
Mr. J.S. Hawker, Senior Research Scientist with the CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization) Division of Horticulture has been granted the Fellowship to continue his research on 'Carbodydrate Metabolism of Plants.' Mr. Hawker is doing part of his study at the Uuniversity of California at Davis.

Mr. J.S. Hawker

SEATO RESEARCH FELLOWS 70-71

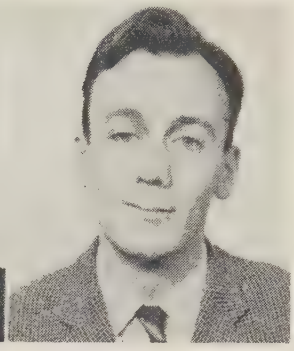
From THAILAND

Mr. Somsak Ruchirawat, Lecturer in Organic Chemistry, Mahidol University, Bangkok, is carrying out his SEATO project at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on synthesis of organic molecule with the emphasis on finding a new method for organic reactions.



Mr. Somsak Ruchirawat

From the UNITED KINGDOM



Mr. Nigel W. Preston

Mr. Nigel W. Preston, a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia, has been spending the past few months collecting and investigating potential drug plants of (French) New Caledonia and (Franco-British Condominium of) New Hebrides. He is now back in Hobart working on this collection.

Mr. Willard Scott Thompson

From the UNITED STATES

Mr. Willard Scott Thompson, Associate Professor of International Politics and Research Associate of International Development Studies, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, is expected to spend the first half this year in Bangkok and Manila gathering material for his research study entitled: "Adaptation in the policies of Thailand and the Philippines towards the United States 1965-70".

From the PHILIPPINES

Mr. B.A. Parker, Assistant Professor of Animal Breeding at the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture, will be spending four months on his SEATO-sponsored study of the various methods and techniques used by the SEATO countries in determining transferrin and hemoglobin types in cattle. As part of his research, Mr. Parker will be spending some time in England and the United States.

Mr. B.A. Parker

Mrs. Rachel L. San Miguel

Mrs. Rachel L. San Miguel, Instructor in Pilipino and History at the University of the East. Her project is "Research and Training in the Second Language Approach in the teaching of Pilipino to the Philippine National Minorities. Her programme of research has taken her to Hawaii's East-West Center and the Adult Division of the San Francisco City College.

THE VOICE FROM THE SKY

by Daniel Boswell

Photographs by Josephus Daniels

EARLY in 1969, Thailand's Tribal Research Centre in Bangkok sent a team of investigators into the mountain areas of northern Thailand. Their assignment: conduct a census among the hill tribes. They wanted to know how many households there were in the area, the number of people, their ages, occupations, educational levels, the number of livestock owned by each family group, how many *rai* of land each household cultivated. The census would serve as a guideline for the Government in its rural development programs. At first glance, taking a census appeared to be a relatively simple task.

But the investigators met resistance from the hill tribes—passive resistance. There was little enthusiasm and less co-operation, and the census was stalled as soon as it began.

What was to be done? Answer: turn to "the voice from the sky." This is the name given to the Hill Tribes Radio Station by the unsophisticated and superstitious tribes people of northern Thailand. Since December 1968, "the voice from the sky" had been emanating from the town of Chieng Mai, bringing an exciting new dimension to the lives of residents in the isolated mountain communities. Peter Whitlock, the radio station's young, energetic Australian adviser, was the person to whom the director of the Tribal Research Center turned for help with the census.

"I suggested to the director that he write a program for our broadcasts," Whitlock recalls, "and I also suggested that the program should tell the people what is going to be done, why it is going to be done, and what its advantages would be to the people.

"After he had written a script along these lines, we put the program on the air in the tribal languages. Three days later the research team went out again and this time they were greeted with friendliness and co-operation in the tribal communities. Everybody had heard the program. They had thought about it, they had talked about it—and they had agreed to co-operate 100 percent. Everybody was happy: The research team was happy; the people were happy, and we were happy we could help."

Whitlock uses the incident to illustrate some of his basic ideas of communicating with uneducated and superstitious audiences. "For a program to be effective," he says, "it is essential that it 'identify' with the aspirations and problems of its listeners, with their concern about health, sanitation, child care, agriculture, and so on. And the best way to do this, of course, is to communicate with them in their own language."

The Hill Tribes Radio Station acts as a public relations arm of the Thai Government. Its purpose is to enlighten the tribes on their rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities as citizens of the nation. They learn about the structure of Thai Government, the nature and details of the Thai Constitution, and the operation of the election process: how a man is elected to a position of public trust, what he does in office and what people can expect from him and the governmental agency that he represents.

"We want the tribes to feel they belong to Thailand," says Whitlock. "We want them to develop a national awareness because, for centuries, they have lived in the hills without becoming involved in the affairs of the nation. We want to introduce modern ways to them, to give them an appreciation of the advantages of living as a Thai in 20th century Thailand. This is the sum total of what we're trying to accomplish."

● *At the Hill Tribes Radio Station in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand, Australian Adviser Peter Whitlock checks scripts with a Thai staff member while, in foreground, a Meo girl waits for her turn to record tribal songs.*

Mr. Whitlock's services to the Thai Government have been provided by Australia under the auspices of SEATO and represent part of the Organization's assistance, directly and bilaterally, to Thailand's efforts in promoting the welfare of her semi-nomadic hill peoples while fostering their sense of national identity with the country in which the have chosen to make their home.

● *Part of the audience with which the 'voice from the sky' is trying to carry on a dialogue. These girls belong to the Karen, the largest of the six main hill tribes of northern Thailand. The other five are: Meo, Lisu, Akha, Yao and Lahu.*

Whitlock came to Chiang Mai at the request of the Royal Thai Government. His experience in tribal radio broadcasting includes four years as program director for the Australian Broadcasting Commission in New Guinea where some 700 different languages and dialects are spoken.

"The voice from the sky," powered by a 100-kilowatt transmitter, speaks in six languages. There are separate broadcasts each day in Meo, Yao, Karen, Kam Muang and Central Thai. A program in Lahu, another tribal language, is aired once a week.

"When we started," Whitlock says, "we broadcast a half-hour program in the daytime and repeated it at night. It wasn't terribly satisfactory, but at least it was a significant start." Today, the station broadcasts every day from five a.m. to noon, and from six to 10 p.m. The programs are varied, and include local and international news, tribal songs, music and drama, and useful information on farming, health, sanitation, education, law and government.

"On hearing our first broadcasts in 1968," Whitlock recalls, "the first reaction from the tribes was immense joy. No one had ever broadcast to them in their own languages before. I have been told that some of them listen to our broadcasts from sunup to sundown. We keep getting requests for more information on the topics that affect their daily lives closely. We have influenced them so much that their attitude has become something like this: If 'the voice from the sky' says something is good, then it must be good."

The radio station is an important force in preparing the ground for rural cooperation in road-building, health campaigns and many other Government efforts to raise the living conditions of the tribes.

Whitlock occasionally visits villages himself to solicit opinions from his audience on programming. "There seems to be a steadily growing interest in international news," he reports. "Once, a village headman approached me and we discussed world affairs. He was up to date. 'What do you think of the Sabah dispute?' he wanted to know. And 'how far do you think will this Middle East thing go?' Since we started broadcasting, many tribesmen have tried their best to get a transistor radio. Some of them now have fairly sophisticated models."

The station's staff—announcers, disc jockeys, etc.—are Meo, Yao, Karen and Lahu tribesmen and tribeswomen. The station's doors are open to all visitors. "Anyone from the tribes with a story to tell, a song to sing, or a message to impart, can come over and broadcast it," Whitlock says. "Once two 18-year-old boys walked 60 kilometers—three days—to visit our station. They had hitchhiked some, but they were on foot most of the time. They came in, sat down and watched us awhile. I went over to them and said, 'Would you like to participate in programming?' And they said: 'Can we? in Meo?' I nodded. They entered a recording booth and sang their hearts out for about half an hour."

Their tension disappeared, Whitlock adds, and they wandered around the building and the studio, examining the equipment, chatting with the staff, thinking, perhaps, they were now part owners of the station where they had sung. They walked back to their village and no doubt the villagers looked up to them for some time, especially when their songs were broadcast. Communication and warm human contact had been achieved. They had also become part of "the voice from the sky."

(Reprinted from Horizons Vol. XIX No. 7)

● *Broadcasting in Karen, by a Karen and for the Karen.*

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SEATO Annual Report 1969-70 (English) — by Lt. Gen. Jesus Vargas, Secretary-General of SEATO.

Story of SEATO (English, Thai), New Edition, 1969.
Information magazine on SEATO's Military and civil activities.

Manila Pact and Pacific Charter (revised 1968.)
Texts of the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty and the Pacific Charter.

Aspects of the History, Culture and Religions of Pakistan
Lectures by Dr. Ishtiaq Hussain Qureshi, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Karachi, as a travelling lecturer under the SEATO Cultural Programme.

Collective Security : Shield of Freedom (Revised, 1963).

Medical
Research into Disease— (Revised): Cholera (Pakistan—SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory) in English and Thai.

Research into Disease—II : The Search for Health (SEATO medical projects in Thailand).

Research into Disease—III : Malaria (SEATO Medical Research Laboratory, Bangkok) in English and Thai.

Community Development
Report of the SEATO Seminar on Community Development, July 19-23, 1965. In English and Thai.

The Role of Youth in Asia
Report of the SEATO Seminar on 'Youth's Response to Challenges in Asia', Feb. 13-17, 1967.

Posters :
Better Communications for Better Living (English, Thai)

Skilled Hands for National Progress (English, Thai)

The Painter's View of his Country—I

Good Health Key to National Prosperity

Highway To Health (SEATO-Cholera Research Laboratory, Dacca).

A Helping Hand On The Land (SEATO Agricultural Research Project).

Communist Economic Subversion : A Reappraisal
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Extracts from Douglas Pike's booklet "The Viet-cong Strategy of Terror".

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Extracts from Douglas Pike's booklet "The Viet-cong Strategy of Terror".

Defeating Communist Insurgency
by Sir Robert Thompson (Thai translation)

Radio Writers Handbook (English, Thai)
by Madeleine C. Meyer.

The Changing Face of Communism
A lecture in booklet form given at SEATO Headquarters by Douglas Hyde in May, 1968.

Security in Rural Areas
Two papers in booklet form presented by Douglas Hyde at a SEATO-sponsored seminar.

What is Communism? (English, Thai)
by Michael Davis. A straightforward explanation of Communism and its objectives.

Know Your Enemy (English, Thai)
A study of Communist tactics of infiltration and suggested counter-measures.

Buddhism in Thailand
By R. Bhavilai. A modern Thai's interpretation of Buddhism.

Printed by Sompong Chaicharoen at the Sompong Press Ltd. Part. 14/8 Pracharasdra Road, Bangkok, February, 1971

● The Grand Staircase of Lancaster House, London. The famous building, built in 1820, will be the venue of the SEATO Council Meeting to be held in April.